Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): An article feeder comprising:

a. a collator section having a container for receiving articles in a random array for collating, the container having a floor and at least one track along the floor for receiving and collating the articles into a row and guiding them ~~downstream~~ to an article dispensing section, the track extending ~~in a upstream direction~~ toward ~~an upstream~~ a release end of the container and in an opposed ~~downstream~~ direction toward ~~a downstream end of the track~~ the article dispensing section,

b. means for oscillating the container about an axis for tilting the container in the track direction between a position with the track tilted downward toward the

~~upstream~~ release end of the container and a position with the track tilted upward toward the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container and

c. an article dispensing section adjacent the collator section and adapted to receive articles from the track thereof and dispense them one by one to a receiver and

wherein the collator section includes means for selectively opening the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container and means for selectively opening the release end of the track to the release out of the container of both collated and uncollated articles therein when the container is positioned with the track tilted downward toward the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container.

2. (currently amended): An article feeder as in claim 1 and wherein the means for selectively opening the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container and for opening the release end of the track includes a gate at the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container.

3. (previously presented): An article feeder as in claim 1 and wherein the container has a plurality of said tracks side by side along the floor and the dispensing section is adapted to receive articles and dispense articles from each of the tracks.

4. (previously presented): An article feeder as in claim 3 and wherein each of the tracks comprises a slot in the container floor.

5. (currently amended): An article feeder comprising:

a. a collator section having a container for receiving articles in a random array for collating, the container having a floor and at least one track along the floor for receiving and collating the articles into a row and guiding them ~~downstream~~ to ~~an~~ article dispensing section, the track extending ~~in a upstream direction~~ to ~~an upstream~~ a release end of the container and in an opposed ~~downstream~~ direction toward ~~a downstream end of the container~~ the article dispensing section,

b. means for oscillating the container about an axis for tilting the container in the track direction between a position with the track tilted downward toward the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container and a position with the track tilted upward toward the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container and

c. an article dispensing section adjacent the downstream end of the collator section and adapted to receive articles from the collator track and dispense them one by one to a receiver and

wherein the collator section includes means for selectively opening the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container and means for selectively opening the release end of the track to the release out of the container of both collated and uncollated articles therein when the container is positioned with the track tilted downward toward the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container.

6. (currently amended): An article feeder as in claim 5 and wherein the means for selectively opening the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container and the release end of the track includes a gate at the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container.

7. (currently amended): An article feeder as in claim 5 and wherein the container has a plurality of side by side tracks along the floor extending ~~in the upstream direction to the upstream~~ , in the direction of the article dispensing section, from the release end of the container and, in the ~~downstream~~ opposite direction, to their respective ~~downstream~~ opposite ends and the article dispensing section is adapted to receive articles from the ~~downstream~~ said opposite end of each track.

8. (previously presented): An article feeder as in claim 7 and wherein each of the tracks comprises a slot in the container floor.

9. (currently amended): An article feeder as in claim 8 and wherein the container has means selectively operable to detain articles received in the tracks from sliding back beyond a selected intermediate location along the tracks ~~between the upstream and downstream ends of the container~~ when the tracks are tilted downward toward the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container, whereby the detaining means may be selectively rendered operable during operation of the feeder and inoperable during removal of articles from the feeder for changeover to feed a different article.

10. (currently amended): An article feeder as in claim 9 wherein the article detaining means comprises a detent in each of the slots at the intermediate location, the detents being selectively retractable out of the slots to facilitate removal of articles from the container.

11. (previously presented): An article feeder as in claim 10 and wherein each detent comprises a projection projecting through a respective slot into the container that is selectively retractable out of the container.

12. (currently amended): An article feeder comprising:

a. a collator section having a container for receiving articles in a random array for collating, the container having a floor and at least one collator track along the floor for receiving articles and guiding them in a row ~~downstream~~ to an article dispensing section, the collator track extending in ~~a upstream~~ one direction ~~to an upstream~~ toward a release end of the container and in an opposed direction toward the dispensing section to ~~a downstream~~ an opposite end of the track,

b. means for oscillating the container about an axis for tilting the container in the collator track direction between a position with the collator track tilted downward toward the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container and a position with the collator track tilted upward toward the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container,

c. an article dispensing section adjacent the ~~downstream~~ said opposite end of the collator section track having at least one dispenser track and an escapement adapted for intercepting articles fed ~~downstream~~ to the escapement along the dispenser track and for dispensing them one by one to a receiver, the article dispenser track extending from an ~~upstream~~ end adjacent the ~~downstream~~ said opposite end of the collator track of the collator section and extending ~~downstream~~ to the escapement and

d. means for moving the dispensing section about an axis to a position with the dispenser track tilted downward toward the escapement and to a position with the dispenser track tilted upward toward the escapement,

the ~~downstream~~ said opposite end of the collator track and the ~~upstream~~ said adjacent end of the dispenser track being disposed in article delivering and receiving relationship (a) when the container is in the position with the collator track tilted upward toward the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container and the dispenser section is in the position with the dispenser track tilted ~~downstream to~~ downward toward the escapement thus allowing articles in the collator track to move by gravity into and down the dispenser track to queue up at the escapement for dispensing and (b) when the container is in the position with the collator track tilted downward toward the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container and the dispenser section is in the position with the dispenser track tilted ~~upstream to~~ upward toward the escapement thus allowing the articles to move by gravity back into the collator track for removal from the feeder during a changeover to new articles and

wherein the collator section includes means for selectively opening the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container and means for selectively opening the release end of the collator track to the release of both collated and uncollated articles residing in both the collator track and dispenser track and uncollated articles in the container when the container is in the position with the collator track tilted downward toward the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container and the dispenser section is in the position with dispenser track tilted ~~upstream to the escapement~~ downward toward the release end of the container.

13. (currently amended): An article feeder as in claim 12 and wherein the means for selectively opening the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container and the release end of the collator track includes a gate at the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container.

14. (currently amended): An article feeder as in claim 12 and wherein the container has a plurality of side by side tracks along the floor extending ~~in the upstream direction~~ to the ~~upstream~~ release end of the article container and in ~~the downstream~~ an opposed direction toward the dispenser section, to their respective ~~downstream~~ opposite ends, the dispensing section has a plurality of side by side tracks each extending from an ~~upstream~~ end adjacent the ~~downstream~~ said opposite end of the collator track of the collator section ~~and extending downstream~~ to the escapement and the ~~downstream~~ said opposite end of each collator track is disposed in an article delivering and receiving relationship with the ~~upstream~~ said opposite end of a dispenser track (a) when the container is in the position with the collator track tilted upward toward the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container and the dispenser section is in the position with the dispenser track tilted ~~downstream to~~ downward toward the escapement thus allowing articles in the collator track to move by gravity into and down the dispenser track to queue up at the escapement for dispensing and (b) when the container is in the position with the collator track tilted downward

toward the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container and the dispenser section is in the position with the dispenser track tilted ~~upstream to~~ downstream toward the escapement thus allowing the articles to move by gravity back into the collator track for removal from the feeder during a changeover to new articles.

15. (previously presented): An article feeder as in claim 14 and wherein each of the container tracks comprises a slot in the container floor and each of the dispenser tracks comprises a slot in the dispenser section.

16. (currently amended): An article feeder as in claim 15 and wherein the container has means selectively operable to detaining articles received in the ~~tracks~~ slots from sliding back beyond a selected intermediate location along the ~~tracks~~ slots ~~between the upstream and downstream ends~~ of the container when the ~~tracks~~ slots are tilted downward toward the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container, whereby the detaining means may be selectively rendered operable during operation of the feeder and inoperable during removal of articles from the feeder for changeover to feed a different article.

17. (previously presented): An article feeder as in claim 16 wherein the article detaining means comprises a detent in the slots at the intermediate location the detents being selectively retractable out of the slots to facilitate removal of articles from the container.

18. (previously presented): An article feeder as in claim 17 and wherein each detent comprises a projection projecting through a respective slot into the container that is selectively retractable out of the container.

19. (currently amended): An article feeder as in claim 15 and wherein the feeder further comprises a regulatory gate at the ~~downstream~~ said opposite ends of the collator slots that its operable, when closed, to restrict movement of articles out of the ~~container~~ collator section to those received in the collator slots and when open to make a gap above the container floor at the ~~downstream end~~ said opposite ends of the slots and means for opening the gate when the container is in the position with the collator slots tilted downward toward the ~~upstream~~ release end of the container and the dispenser section is in the position with the dispensers slots tilted ~~upstream to~~ upward toward the escapement, thus facilitating the movement of articles back into the collator ~~track~~ slots for removal from the feeder during a changeover to new articles.